

Listening to Muslim Communities

MCC Partners with Muslim Communities Worldwide to Reduce Poverty, Promote Economic Growth

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), an innovative U.S. Government development assistance agency, is improving the lives of the world's poor in tangible and sustainable ways through results-driven, country-led partnerships. Through grants worldwide totaling \$6.8 billion, MCC pursues a smart, integrated approach to development that is investing in the health and education of people, strengthening food security and agricultural productivity, building vital transportation corridors, and generating new jobs and economic opportunity. This approach places a premium on direct, open engagement with the citizens of partner countries. Muslim-majority communities in North Africa, Central Asia, the Far East, and Sub-Saharan Africa are already seeing such results unfold in their countries as part of this dialogue through partnerships with MCC.

Partnerships Start with Dialogue

As a best practice in delivering effective development assistance, MCC works to fund country-determined development goals born from citizen input, not external donor ideas. This promotes transparency, accountability, and the sustainability of results.

Mali's \$461 million MCC compact benefits from the ongoing input and advice of key stakeholders, who participate in workshops to discuss the overall airside and landside designs for infrastructure improvements to Bamako-Sénou Airport.

Senegal identified and prioritized its major constraints to economic growth during the preparation of its MCC compact by organizing various stakeholders' meetings with representatives from the central and municipal government, the

Muslim-Majority Countries Working with MCC

Albania

Burkina Faso

Indonesia

Jordan

Kyrgyzstan

Mali

Morocco

Niger

Senegal

private sector, civil society, labor unions, and women's organizations. Senegal also has developed a strategy to ensure ongoing dialogue through regular meetings with key stakeholders.

Jordan's ongoing work to develop its MCC compact includes a consultative process that benefits from the participation and engagement of local women. MCC brings a specific commitment to ensuring that gender is considered and recognized in all stages of work with every partner country.

Partnerships that Deliver Results

Poverty reduction is a fundamental, universal goal; it does not belong to one faith community. MCC partners with countries not because they are Muslim but, rather, because they are committed to practicing sound policies, making necessary reforms, investing in the well-being of their people, and creating opportunities that will deliver sustainable poverty reduction and economic opportunity in the lives of their poorest citizens.

"...America and Islam are not exclusive and need not be in competition. Instead, they overlap, and share common principles – principles of justice and progress; tolerance and the dignity of all human beings."

*President Barack Obama
June 4, 2009*

Fighting Corruption

Albania's \$15 million *Stage II* MCC threshold program is improving performance on the *control of corruption* and *rule of law* indicators through targeted reforms in the areas of public administration and judicial capacity building. MCC is supporting the creation of an administrative court system. Complementing the business registration one-stop shop completed during the first threshold program, MCC is establishing a *National Licensing Center*, a one-stop shop to facilitate applications for licenses and permits required for business operations. In addition, MCC is expanding e-filing to individual taxpayers. **Albania's Stage II**

threshold program is also working to set-up a *National Planning Registry*, including designing the registry and creating a software database to transparently collect and manage data on land permits. Building on a successful Tirana-based *Special Investigative Unit*, MCC is supporting similar law enforcement teams to investigate and prosecute anticorruption and economic crimes cases in six administrative districts outside Tirana.

Immunizing Children

In the world's largest Muslim-majority democracy, **Indonesia**, the MCC threshold program helped nearly three million children under the age of one receive measles and DPT3 vaccines in threshold program-supported provinces. In Madura Island in East Java, which experienced outbreaks of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and measles, the threshold program worked directly with *Muslimat NU* and *Aisyiyah*, two Muslim faith-based

“There are 1.2 billion Muslims around the world, and we understand that that is an important component for how we think about our actions overseas and how we facilitate dialogue.”

*Special Representative to Muslim
Communities Farah Anwar Pandith
U.S. Department of State*

community organizations, to address local concerns that the vaccines used pork derivatives and were not halal. Muslim elders used Friday prayers and loudspeakers at mosques to confirm that the vaccines were halal and to encourage families to immunize their children. A mass-media campaign also informed and educated the public about the benefits of proper immunization. Madura now has met routine immunization targets for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, and polio this year, and reported cases of diphtheria and measles have dropped significantly in the past two years.

Educating Students

To improve girls’ primary education completion rates **Burkina Faso’s** \$12.9 million MCC threshold program funded the BRIGHT (*Burkinabé Response to Improve Girls’ Chances to Succeed*) project. The BRIGHT-MCC partnership constructed 132 schools in ten of the poorest provinces in Burkina Faso for grades one through three, and to improve the access and quality of education, provided teacher training, take-home rations to girls who maintain a 90 percent school attendance rate, and literacy training for mothers. As a result, nearly 16,700 Burkinabe students—of whom 55 percent are girls—are now enjoying spacious and well-ventilated classrooms, new latrines, easy access to clean, potable water, comfortable desks, school manuals, canteens, and take-home rations. Students are also benefitting from the regular presence of their teachers, who are accommodated on school premises. An independent impact evaluation of the program revealed that school enrollment jumped 16 to 20 percentage points. The success of Burkina Faso’s program is helping inform a similar effort in **Niger**. The MCC-Niger threshold program is funding the IMAGINE (*Improve the Education of Girls in Niger*) project, which includes building 68 “girl friendly” schools in seven regions throughout the country. These



Indonesia’s MCC Threshold Program is helping to build a sustainable childhood immunization system by measuring vaccination coverage and ensuring the availability of quality vaccine supplies.

schools will include three-classroom buildings with sufficient desks for all students, separate latrines for boys and girls, a water source, housing for female teachers, and a school canteen.

Training Artisans

With average monthly earnings of about \$118, artisan workers in **Morocco** will invest MCC funds in their skills. These artisans will train in production techniques and business management and will have access to bank or microcredit loans to invest in modern kilns and pottery workshops. They also will take advantage of improvements to Morocco's national training system for literacy and vocational education to benefit artisans and the general population, particularly women and girls. Overall, nearly \$112 million of Morocco's \$698 million MCC compact is devoted to rehabilitating six historically important sites in the ancient Fez Medina and boosting the production, literacy, and vocational education of artisans. Such investments will reduce poverty by stimulating the Medina's main industries—tourism and artisan production. They are estimated to directly benefit 20,000 low-income workers in Fez Medina, and improve the income of over 3,200 artisans in greater Fez and Marrakech. Preserving Morocco's cultural heritage is a viable and sustainable means of opening new economic opportunities for exceptionally gifted, but extremely poor, artisans and their families.



Girls will benefit from the IMAGINE project in Niger.

Increasing the Self-Sufficiency, Productivity, and Food Security of Farmers



MCC compact funds will invest in skills training for artisan workers in Morocco.

MCC compacts with **Morocco** and **Mali** include long-term investments aimed at increasing the self-sufficiency, productivity, and food security of farmers. Already, in Morocco, 20 Farmer Associations across seven provinces have begun planting over 600,000 olive trees on almost 5,500 hectares of erosion-prone hillsides. In addition to providing sustainable and increased revenues to poor farmers, the trees and soil conservation measures are helping to stem future erosion. Similarly, in Mali, procurement processes are underway for the construction of the first tranche of irrigation infrastructure, the rehabilitation and expansion of capacity of the water control gates on the main irrigation conveyance system, and agricultural support services.